

REMARKS

Method claims 5-15 are now pending in this application. Claims 5 and 6 are independent. Claims 5 has been amended, and claim 17 has been canceled by this Amendment. Device claims 1-4 were previously withdrawn as being directed to the non-elected invention.

Anticipation Rejection over Scherer et al.

Withdrawal of the rejection of claim 5 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Scherer et al. (US 6,711,200) is requested. Claim 5 has been amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter of dependent claim 17, thus rendering its rejection moot. Claim 17 has been canceled. Allowance of amended claim 5 is requested.

Conclusion

In view of the above amendment and remarks, applicant believes that each of pending claims 5-15 in this application is in immediate condition for allowance.

In the event the Examiner believes that an interview would be helpful in resolving any outstanding issues in this case, the undersigned attorney is available at the telephone number indicated below.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to enter this Amendment After Final, in that it raises no new issues, but merely places the claims in a form more clearly patentable over the references of record. In the alternative, the Examiner is respectfully requested to enter this Amendment After Final in that it reduces the issues for appeal.

Application No. 10/707,854
Amendment dated August 15, 2006
Reply to Final Office Action of August 8, 2006

Docket No.: 00131-00281-US1

Applicants believe that no fee is due with this response. However, if any fee is due, please charge CBLH Deposit Account No. 22-0185, under Order No. 00131-00281-US1 from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

Respectfully submitted,

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